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ACTION EA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 IO-13 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03
RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 UPW-01 NIC-01 ARA-12 RSR-01 7117 W
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O P 061215Z MAY 70
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 702
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USUN 57
CINCPAC 190
DIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>Hubley</u>	DATE <u>10/9/80</u>
RDS ☐ or ZDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____	
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____	
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐	
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒	
RELEASE DENIED ☐	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____	

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION ONE OF TWO PHNOM PENH 776

CINCPAC FOR POLAD AND J-2

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN SITREP

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORMATION OF ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION UNDER LEADERSHIP OF NATIONAL UNITED FRONT OF KAMPUCHEA IN PEKING AS SIHANOUK'S GOVERNMENT IN EXILE ANNOUNCED LATE EVENING MAY 5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHINESE COMMUNIST RECOGNITION STATEMENT FOLLOWED BY CHICOM AMBASSADOR'S CALL AT FOREIGN MINISTRY MORNING MAY 6 (THE FIRST SINCE MARCH 18). CHINESE AMBASSADOR PRESENTED NOTE, WHICH ACCORDING TO FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE WAS SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS AND DID NOT MAKE CLEAR THIS WAS FORMAL BREAK. FONOFF ASSUMED THIS WAS MERE PROBLEM OF LANGUAGE. IN ANY CASE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY PEKING INSTRUCTED TO MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT

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RELATIONS BEING BROKEN. AFTER CHINESE AMBASSADOR LEFT, NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR CALLED TO PRESENT SIMILARLY AMBIGUOUS NOTE. NEVERTHELESS, CAMBODIANS ASSUME RELATIONS BROKEN. PROBABLE THAT NORTH VIETNAM AND PRG WILL FOLLOW CHINESE AND NORTH KOREAN LEAD AND BREAK RELATIONS (WHICH ALREADY ARE IN STATE OF SUSPENSION).

2. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DIPLOMATIC SPECULATION AS TO COURSE THAT SOVIETS AND EASTERN EUROPEANS WILL FOLLOW. ONE EMBASSY SOURCE THOUGHT THAT CUBANS WOULD PROBABLY FOLLOW CHINESE AS CUBANS HAVE ALSO NOT CALLED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY SINCE MARCH 18.

3. IMMEDIATELY AFTER VISIT BY CHINESE AMBASSADOR SEGGEN OF MINFON AFFAIRS TOLD VOA CORRESPONDENT THAT CHINESE AMBASSADOR INFORMED THAT CHINESE EMBASSY STAFF HERE WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO DEPART UNTIL CAMBODIAN EMBASSY STAFF IN PEKING HAD RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH. OTHER SOURCES ADD THAT BARRING RETURN, CHINESE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED LEAVE UNTIL CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED "IRON-CLAD" GUARANTEES CONCERNING THEIR DEPARTURE. SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WILL OBTAIN FOR NORTH KOREAN STAFF HERE UNTIL CAMBODIAN EMBASSY STAFF IN PYONGYANG DEPARTS.

4. SINGAPORE EMBOFF SAID THAT WHEN NEWS FIRST HEARD LAST EVENING CONSIDERABLE APPREHENSION DEVELOPED IN CHINESE COMMUNITY. UP TO PRESENT CHINESE HAD GENERALLY FELT THAT SO LONG AS CHINESE COMMUNIST EMBASSY LOCATED IN PHNOM PENH, GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT PERMIT ANTI-CHINESE ACTIVITIES. (HE ALSO FEELS THAT FOR THE TIME VIETNAMESE OFFER SUFFICIENT BUFFER FOR CHINESE.) SINGAPORE EMBOFF ALSO OFFERED PERSONAL VIEW THAT CHINESE ACTION WAS IN RESPONSE TO AMERICAN BORDER OPERATIONS AND THAT THIS THEREFORE PLACED SOVIETS IN DIFFICULT POSITION. ON THE ONE HAND SHOULD RUSSIANS NOW RECOGNIZE SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT IN PEKING THEY WOULD GET NO CREDIT IN COMMUNIST WORLD AND WOULD ONLY BE FOLLOWING PEKING LEAD. IF THEY DO NOT, HOWEVER, THEY WOULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE THEIR POSITION WITH HANOI. (COMMENT: LOCAL LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER NOKOR THOM RECOMMENDS THAT BLVD. MAO TSE TUNG BE RENAMED AVENUE PRESIDENT NIXON.)

5. AFTERNOON MAY 6, CAMBODIAN ARTILLERY BATTERY COMPRISING 5 122MM RUSSIAN FIELD PIECES (M 1938) MANNED BY 85 SOLDIERS, EMPLACED 500 METERS IN FRONT OF EMBASSY COMPOUND ON BASSAC RIVER BANK. GUNS APPEAR TO BE TRAINED ON CONFLUENCE OF MEKONG AND BASSAC RIVERS SOUTH OF CITY.

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6. MILITARY BRIEFER NOTED TWO BRIDGES, ONE LOCATED TWO KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST AND OTHER LOCATED ONE KILOMETER EAST OF PREY VENT TOWN DESTROYED BY VC/NVA. ONLY SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS REPORTED BY MORNING BRIEFER WERE THOSE NORTH OF ROUTE 1 FERRY AT MEKONG AT WEST BANK VILLAGES OF SAMRONG THOM AND KOKI THOM. BRIEFER INDICATED FANK HAD "TAKEN INITIATIVE."

7. ASKED HOW MANY KHMER KROM HAD COME TO FIGHT, WHERE FROM, AND HOW MANY MORE WOULD COME, MILITARY BRIEFER SAID HE HAD NO COMMENT OTHER THAN TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR PRESENCE IN CAMBODIA. BRIEFER STATED THAT NO CAMBODIANS WERE FIGHTING WITH THE ENEMY.

8. AKP OF MAY 6 PUBLISHED GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE ON THE INDOCHINA PEOPLES SUMMIT OF APRIL 24-25. COMMUNIQUE DISAVOWS PRINCE SIHANOUK'S RIGHT TO SPEAK FOR THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE. THE CONFERENCE IS DESCRIBED BY THE COMMUNIQUE AS A PLOT ORGANIZED BY "FOREIGN COUNTRIES" WHO "EXPLOIT THE NAIVETE AND VANITY OF A FORMER CHIEF OF STATE." THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO CONDEMNED THIS AS SIHANOUK'S NEWEST ACT OF TREASON, "WORKING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE "INDO-CHINESE COMMUNISTS."

9. AKP OF MAY 6 ALSO PUBLISHED A DETAILED AFP DESPATCH FROM SAIGON CONCERNING THE ALLIED OCCUPATION OF THE REGION AROUND ROUTE 7 NORTHEAST OF MIMOT IN KOMPONG CHAM PROVINCE. THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT ARVN TROOPS DISCOVERED LARGE CACHES OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES, MANY STILL IN THE AIR FRANCE SHIPPING CARTONS WHICH BROUGHT THEM TO PHNOM PENH.

10. AFP REPORT ALSO CARRIED BY AKP STATED THAT ALLIED FORCES HAD OPENED A NEW DRIVE ON ENEMY BASE AREAS IN CAMBODIA 80 KILOMETERS WEST OF ISNIKU ALONG THE SE SAN RIVER. THE SE SAN BASE AREA IS DESCRIBED AS AN IMPORTANT POINT ON THE "SIHANOUK TRAIL" PROVIDING A LINK BETWEEN THE VIETNAMESE PLATEAU AND THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL IN LAOS.
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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 703
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
CEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 78
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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11. AFP ARTICLE DATED LINED SAIGON MAY 5 NOTED THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE 40 TONS OF FOOD SUPPLIES FOR "VIETNAMESE CITIZENS IN CAMBODIA" WILL BE BROUGHT UP THE MEKONG IN A VIETNAMESE VESSEL AS SOON AS AGREEMENT AND NECESSARY DETAILS ARE WORKED OUT.

12. AFP ARTICLE DATED LINED PARIS MAY 5 ALSO CARRIED IN AKP CATALOGUES THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE OF FRENCH INTERESTS IN CAMBODIA. SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM IS THAT OF RUBBER WITH 45,000 HECTARES UNDER CULTIVATION BY 5 COMPANIES. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE FRENCH PLANTATION AT CHUP (JUST WEST OF THE PRESENT ACTION NEAR MIMOT) CULTIVATES 18,000 HECTARES AND IS NOW THE LARGEST SINGLE RUBBER PLANTATION IN ASIA. THREE OTHER SIGNIFICANT FRENCH FIRMS (PRODUCING BEER, METAL CONSTRUCTION, AND OPEDGING) FOLLOWED CLOSELY AS REVENUE EARNERS FOR FRANCE. IMPORTS OF FOOD

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AND DRINK BENEFITTED FRANCE TO THE AMOUNT OF 117 MILLION FRANCS IN 1969. PHARMACEUTICALS, CHEMICALS, AUTOS AND MACHINERY WERE ALSO NOTED AS IMPORTANT SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR FRANCE. FRENCH FINANCIAL AID UNDER THE 1964 AGREEMENT IS LISTED AT 160 MILLION FRANCS (\$28,800,000) WITH THE LATEST FINANCIAL ACCORD INKED IN FEBRUARY 1970 LISTED AS WORTH 125 MILLION FRANCS (\$22,750,000).

13. THE NATIONAL BANK OF CAMBODIA (BNC) PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE MAY 6 REFUTING VC STATEMENTS THAT THE NEW 500 RIEL NOTES PUT INTO CIRCULATION IN LATE FEBRUARY ARE VALUELESS AND THAT ONLY THE OLD BILLS ARE ACCEPTABLE. THE BNC NOTED THAT ONLY THE NEW, POLYCHROMATIC 500 RIEL BILLS WITH THE WATERMARK OF THE BANK OF FRANCE ARE ACCEPTABLE AND ALL OTHERS SHOULD BE REJECTED.

14. IN MAY 5 AKP "CALL TO OUR FIGHTERS" (REF PHNOM PENH 759, PARA 7) EMBASSY WISHES TO NOTE THAT CALL IS ADDRESSED "TO FIGHTERS OF THE CAMBODIAN REPUBLIC." ACCORDING TO CAMBODIAN SOURCES THIS WAS NOT INTENDED TO INDICATE THAT THE REPUBLIC HAD BEEN DECLARED BUT MERELY A CONTINUATION OF THE DRIVE TOWARD A REPUBLIC.

15. PRIMIN TOLD CHARGE THAT RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN CALLED IN BY PRIMIN ON APRIL 30. SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WAS RUSSIAN AID. EMBASSY HAS NO INDICATION AS TO HOW REQUEST WAS RECEIVED.

16. EMBASSY NOTES FBIS ITEM DATED MAY 1 FROM PHNOM PENH DOMESTIC SERVICE BROADCAST CALLING ON OWNERS OF REQUISITIONED CIVILIAN VEHICLES TO VISIT TRANSPORT SECTION OF ARMED FORCES LOGISTICAL SERVICE TO RECEIVE RENTAL PAYMENT. TARIFF TO BE PAID FOR VEHICLES IN 1000 RIELS (\$20) PER DAY FOR 45 SEAT BUS, 700 RIELS (\$14) FOR 10-TON TRUCK, AND 200 RIELS (\$4) FOR EACH DRIVER. COMMENT: CAMBODIAN FORCES ON THE MOVE USING CIVILIAN TRANSPORT WILL NO DOUBT BE RECALLED BY CAMBODIAN HISTORIANS AS CAMBODIA'S 1970 TAXI ARMY OF THE MARNE.
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